(c) whether Central Government has consulted the Advocate General on the legality of action taken against those responsible for damaging properties; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and action proposed to be taken against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) According to available information, in the wake of efforts by some activists of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) to create disturbaces in a political rally in Mumbai on 3rd February, 2008, a number of incidents of demonstrations, burning the effigies of political leaders, pelting of stones on/damage of buses and other vehicles, and damage to private and public properties took place in Mumbai and some other parts of Maharashtra during the first to third weeks of February, 2008. According to the information provided by the State Government, there were 336 incidents during this period, of which there were 8 incidents of assault on North Indian labourers/ workers and some cases of damage to property like shops, stalls, handcarts, etc., in which 8-10 persons are reported to have been injured, and properties worth of Rs. 5 lakh belonging to the North Indians were damaged. Further, properties approximately of Rs. 18 lakhs were also damaged as a result of stone pelting on buses and other Govt, vehicles.

(c) and (d) As 'Public order' is a State subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the action required to be taken and its legality and other aspects, with respect to any such incident is for the State Govt, to take. The State Govt, has informed that in 336 offences registered in the State of Maharashtra, 1575 persons were arrested for substantive offences in addition to preventive action against 5159 persons.

Spurt in terrorism

153. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorism has increased considerably in the country; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the spurt in the terrorism has been attributed to failure on the part of security agencies to do their home work and provide adequate inputs;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to restructure the security agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) It is not a fact that terrorism has increased considerably in the country, or that there has been any spurt in terrorism on account of the failure of the security agencies to provide adequate inputs. Although violence and militancy has continued in some parts of the country, the overall situation has remained largely in control. In fact, there has been a significant improvement in so far as the situation in Jammu & Kashmir is concerned, and even in the North Eastern Region, the situation has improved considerably in some States such as Tripura and Meghalaya, while co-ordinated measures are being taken to check and control the activities of militant groups in the other affected States in the region viz., Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. In the naxal affected areas also the overall level of extremist violence has, more or less, remained at a similar level in the last few years and, has in fact shown improvement in a number of areas, but for a few major incidents in

some States like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, etc. The State Governments have been urged to take focused and coordinated measures to deal with the situation, and ail possible help and assistance is being provided by the Government of India to them in this regard.

As far as terrorism in the hinterland is concerned, although some incidents have occurred in different States, close coordination is being maintained between the Central and State agencies, including regular sharing of information and intelligence. As a result, a large number of terrorist modules have been busted and possible major terrorist incidents averted. Institutional arrangements have also been put in place so that sharing and analysis of information can be done on a continuing basis in a systematic and coordinated manner. The State Governments have also been urged to strengthen the State police forces, by filling up vacancies and improving the police: pupulation ratio, as also to take special measures to strengthen their intelligence set up. Assistance for these purposes is also been given under the Police Modernisation Scheme, under which the States have also asked to prepare sub-plans for strengthening the intelligence related arrangements for which the assistance of Central agencies is also being provided. All this is in addition to deployment of Central forces to assist the civil authorities in the States, liberal sanctions for raising of India Reserve (IR) battalions and assistance for general and specialized training for the State security forces.

Highest crime rate in Andhra Pradesh

154. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Andhra Pradesh has the highest crime rate as per the findings of the National Crime Record Bureau;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to advise and also sensitize the State police on the issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) As per the 'Crime in India' report for the year 2006 published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Andhra Pradesh does not have the highest crime rate either under the 'Indian Penal Code (IPC)' or the 'Special and Local Laws (SLL)' category. Andhra Pradesh does not have the highest crime rate, even when the crime rates for the two categories, *viz.* IPC & SLL, are taken togehter, as per the said report published by the NCRB.

(b) to (d) Since 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and also for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law enforcement agencies in appropriate manner. The Union Government, however, supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing them with financial assistance for modernization of their Police Forces in terms of weaponry, communication, equipment, mobility training and other infrastructure under the Scheme of Modernization of State Police forces. Further, intelligence inputs are regularly shared by the Central Security and Intelligence Agencies with the State Law Enforcement Agencies to prevent crime and law and order related incidents. The State Governments are